

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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CU-04 /069 W

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P R 171453 Z APR 73

FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4126

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL IZMIR

AMCONSUL ADANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISTANBUL 624

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, TU

SUBJECT: TPLA MARTIAL LAW TRIAL OPENS

RJ:: ISTANBUL 343

1. SUMMARY: LONG- ANTICIPATED TRIAL OF THOSE MEMBERS TURKISH PEOPLES LIBERATION ARMY ACCUSED ASSISTING MAHIR CAYAN GROUP (REFTEL) BEGAN IN ISTANBUL MARTIAL LAW COURT NO 3 APRIL 16. OF 256 ACCUSED, DEATH PENALTY BEING DEMANDED FOR TEN WITH BALANCE FACING SENTENCES RANGING FROM SIX MONTHS TO FIFTEEN YEARS IMPRISONMENT. REPORTEDLY, 25 OF DEFENDENTS ARE WOMEN. TRIAL BEING COVERED BY FOREIGN AND LOCAL PRESS REFS. END SUMMARY.

2. MARTIAL LAW TRIAL OF 256 DEFENDANTS ACCUSED OF CRIMES RANGING FROM COMPLICITY IN MURDER OF ISTANBUL ISRAELI CONSUL GENERAL ELROM TO ASSISTING IN ESCAPE FROM PRISON OF TERRORIST MAHIR CAYAN GANG AND ATTEMPTS TO OVERTHROW TURKISH REPUBLIC BEGAN UNDER TIGHT SECURITY IN SPECIALLY PREPARED COURTROOM AT FIRST ARMY HEADQUARTERS, ISTANBUL. SIGNIFICANTLY, 109 OF ACCUSED ARE FORMER PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS TURKISH ARMED FORCES INCLUDING 26 FORMER AIR FORCE ACADEMY STUDENTS. BULK OF ACCUSED ARE UNIVERSITY GRADUATES OR STUDENTS WITH ONLY SMALL NUMBER FROM LABORING CLASSES.

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3. PROSECUTION IS DEMANDING DEATH SENTENCES FOR TEN OF ACCUSED INCLUDING ERTUGRUL KURKCU, FORMER PRESIDENT OF OUT-LAWED DEV- GENC ORGANIZATION. OTHER SENTENCES DEMANDED RANGE FROM SIX MONTHS TO FIFTEEN YEARS IMPRISONMENT.

4. TRIAL IS BEING HELD UNDER EXTREMELY RIGID SECURITY MEASURES AT SELIMIYE BARRACKS PROJECTION ROOM. IN OBVIOUS DESIRE SHOW EVEN HANDEDNESS OF TURKISH MILITARY JUSTICE, BOTH LOCAL AND FOREIGN PRESS ARE ALLOWED TO ATTEND TRIAL SESSIONS. FACT THAT TRIAL BEGINS WITH INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFICATION EACH OF ACCUSED AND READING OF 530 PAGE INDICTMENT MAY DISSUADE SOME OF CORRESPONDENTS FROM CONSISTENT ATTENDANCE AT TRIAL PROCEEDINGS.

5. IN RELATED ACTION, ISTANBUL MARTIAL LAW COMMAND ANNOUNCED CAPTURE EIGHT SO- CALLED ANARCHISTS IN UNIDENTIFIED AREA OF ISTANBUL EARLY MORNING APRIL 16. THREE OF THOSE APPREHENDED RESISTED ARREST AND SET FIRE TO HOUSE IN WHICH THEY WERE HIDING BEFORE CAPTURE. NAMES OF THOSE APPREHENDED BEING WITHHELD BY MARTIAL LAW COMMAND.

6. CONGEN IS SENDING BY POUCH COPY OF ISTANBUL MARTIAL LAW COMMAND PRESS BRIEFING OF MARCH 27 WHICH WAS PRESENTED TO AMB HANDLEY BY MARTIAL LAW COMMANDER GEN FAIK TURUN DURING FAREWELL CALL HERE LAST WEEK.
MACE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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